



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

January 2013

Radar Aeroecology

Jeff Kelly will be the presenter at the January 28 meeting of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society. His presentation will be on "Radar Aeroecology."

Birds, bats and many arthropods spend a large portion of their lives in the air. It is difficult to study the ecology of these animals while they are airborne. One way to study flying animals is with radar. This presentation will focus on ways that ornithologists and meteorologists at the University of Oklahoma are cooperating to use radar to understand the ecology of birds and bats.



Jeff is an Associate Professor at the University of Oklahoma where he studies the ecology of migratory birds and teaches courses in Conservation Biology and Population Biology.



"We have come a long way in our understanding of migration since it was believed that swallows wintered at the bottoms of lakes and that robins wintered in tree stumps," says Jeff. "Yet, we are still a long ways from the kind of understanding of songbird migration that will let us develop effective conservation plans that can be used forecast and mitigate the impacts of human induced land cover and climate change on the distribution and abundance of migrants, he adds. The central limitation to our understanding of the population ecology of migrant birds, says Jeff, is our inability to track them through their annual cycle."

Come out and bring some friends. They will love it. Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month. They begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Will Rogers Garden Center, I-44 and NW 36th Street. Visitors are always welcome.

New Members

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes Camille Wittenhagen, Edmond and Jean Longo, Oklahoma City.

Cookie Patrol

Nadine Varner and Jimmy Woodward will be doing the coffee for the January meeting. Sharon Henthorn, Kristi Hendriks and Mark Delgrosso will be in charge of other refreshments.

Dues Notice

It's time once again to renew your annual membership for 2013. OCAS dues are \$15 per household and may be paid at the monthly meetings, online at our website <http://www.okc-audubon.org> or mailed to Nancy Vicars, Treasurer, 820 Arthur Drive, Midwest City, OK 73110

President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



Last month we looked at the local corvoid birds and identified two vocalizations which seemed to have counterparts in many of the corvoid birds worldwide. These two corvoid vocalizations are exemplified by the Blue Jay's "toolili" song and it's "jeer" or "jay" call. Before we conclude that these two vocalization types are useful diagnostic marks for corvoid

passerines, we ought to know whether non-corvoid passerines do or do not have similar vocalizations. In other words we have a question: "Do non-corvoid passerines sing songs resembling "toolili" or make calls resembling "jeer" or "jay"? We won't try to answer this question for all nine of our non-corvoid supergroups in one Perspective article. Rather we will just catch up this month by answering the question for the four non-corvoid supergroups covered in prior articles. For the other five supergroups not yet examined we will answer the question for each as it comes.

The supergroups already covered are the suboscine Eurylamides, Tyranni and Furnarii and the oscine Basal Songbird Australasian Grade (BSAG). Let's deal with the three suboscine supergroups first. We should listen to some recordings, but we don't need to be exhaustive. If anything like "toolili" or "jeer" is widespread among the suboscines, it should show up in a fairly small sample. Listen to the 1st recording in the Sounds section at each of the following three links, <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/broad-billed-sapayoa-sapayoa-aenigma>, <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/eastern-phoebe-sayornis-phoebe>, <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/rufous-hornero-furnarius-rufus>. Suboscine vocalizations just aren't musical the way "toolili" is. As a final example let's listen to the song of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, which happens to be the most tuneful and complex, multi-note, suboscine song I know about, http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Scissor-tailed_Flycatcher/sounds. The song is interesting, but compared to "toolili" it is harsh and sputtering. It may well be the case that some small subset of the suboscines do sing "toolili"-like songs, and we just missed it in our sample. In that case a "toolili"-like song heard in the field would still be a useful hint of a possible corvoid even if not perfectly diagnostic. The same can be said for a "jeer"-like call -- while it may or may not be perfectly diagnostic for a corvoid vs. a suboscine, it is at least a pretty good indicator.

To check for "toolili" and "jeer"-like calls and songs in the BSAG birds, let's start with some calls of a honeyeater, the Cardinal Myzomela, in the 4th and 5th recordings under the Sounds section at, <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/cardinal-myzomela-myzomela-cardinalis>. Resembles a jay, doesn't

it? Now listen to the song in the 1st recording of the same section. If we had to come up with an utterance that was somehow half way in between the "toolili" of the Blue Jay, an oscine, and the "wheep" (http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Crested_Flycatcher/sounds) of the Great Crested Flycatcher, a suboscine, it might sound quite a bit like this recording. Let's mark this one down as a maybe, an indication that "toolili"-like songs may exist among the non-corvoid oscines. For confirmation of the presence of "jeer"-like calls among the honeyeaters, listen to the 5th and 6th recordings in the Sounds section for the Wattled Honeyeater, <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/wattled-honeyeater-foulehaio-carunculatus>. So the honeyeaters have some calls that are much like the "jeer"-like calls of corvoids. For a comparison of this bird's song to the Blue Jay's song, listen to the 3rd recording. This is quite a bit closer to "toolili" than the song of the Cardinal Myzomela. We are forced to admit the possibility that "jeer"-like calls and "toolili"-like songs may be widespread among the oscines. However something we have not discussed about BSAG so far is that it was long considered part of Corvoidea and only split off rather recently, an indication that the BSAG birds probably sound more like corvoids than the other oscines do. So all is not lost, and vocalizations like "toolili" and "jeer" may turn out to be useful field indicators for corvoids in the parts of the world not occupied by BSAG, which is to say the entire world excluding Australasia. Let's reserve judgement until we have investigated the remaining five supergroups.

Oklahoma City Audubon Society

Officers 2013

President	Bill Diffin	722-3778
Vice President	John Shackford	340-5057
Secretary	Sharon Henthorn	521-9958
Treasurer	Nancy Vicars	831-1945
Parliament	Ted Goulden	354-3619
Programs	Warren Harden	364-3491
Recorder	Esther M. Key	735-1021
Conservation	Dave Woodson	601-622-3467
Field Trips	Mark Delgrosso	470-4533
Newsletter Editors:		
	Pat Velte	751-5263
	Carla Brueggen	495-3259
Publicity	Doug Eide	495-8192
Historian	Nealand Hill	388-6759
Refreshments	Sue Woodson	601-622-3467
Webmaster	Pat Velte	751-5263

The Oklahoma City Audubon society is neither a chapter of nor affiliated with National Audubon.

For Oklahoma City Audubon news between newsletters and meetings, be sure to log onto:

OKC-Audubon.org

Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



Pat Velte asked a simple question: "What is the status of the Golden Eagle in central Oklahoma in winter?" "That's a great question!" I replied—an excellent response, don't you think, when you don't have a clue!

Dr. George M. Sutton (Oklahoma Birds, 1967) said that in addition to the **Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) being a permanent

resident in the rough parts of Cimarron County, "Throughout rest of state, [it is a] fall and winter visitant..." But in Dr. Sutton's *Species Summaries of Oklahoma Birds*, that Sutton maintained until his death in 1982, I can find only 4 records for central Oklahoma, all from around the 1950s. One of these was from the Lake Carl Blackwell area in Payne County, the other 3 referenced out of Norman, Oklahoma; 1 of these 3 was a female (UOMZ 2330) collected 11 mi. northeast of Norman, reported (and assumed collected) by F. H. Jensen. Thus Golden Eagles are rare enough in central Oklahoma that they should be carefully documented when observed.

Identifying Golden Eagles is somewhat difficult because some young Bald Eagles can look rather similar to adult Golden Eagles. Young Bald Eagles (before aging into white head and tail adults) have some white mottling in the underwing feathers, whereas the adult Golden Eagle is all dark under the wing. Young Golden Eagles have a distinctive white band in tail feathers in addition to some white on the underwing about 2/3rds of the way to the wingtip. One good identification point, if it can be discerned, is that the Golden Eagle has feathers all the way down to its toes, while Bald Eagles have no feathers from the tarsus (mid-leg) down to the toes.

Two of my favorite recollections about Golden Eagles involve birds seen during the breeding season in Cimarron County. I was once looking over a prairie dog town

north of Boise City, Cimarron County. Part of the dog-town extended from a native prairie grass field into a field of wheat about 2 feet high. Rather unexpectedly I noticed a Golden Eagle flying low over the wheat, maybe 4-5 feet high. Very suddenly, the eagle made an almost unbelievably swift flick of its wings and disappeared into the wheat as it (no doubt) hit the ground. I moved closer (in the car) and saw the eagle eating prey, but could never verify that the prey was a prairie dog, although there can be little doubt that this is what the eagle had caught. The lesson I took away from this was the extraordinary agility of the Golden Eagle. I have never seen a Bald Eagle approach this degree of agility.

The other incident occurred close to Kenton, again in Cimarron County. One evening I was looking toward the



west; a strong wind, perhaps 35 mph, was blowing from the south. Into this wind was flying a Golden Eagle. The eagle was making excellent progress, perhaps 35 mph, into the wind. What strength I was seeing! As I thought about it, I guessed that any eagle flying that hard into that strong a head wind at that time of day must be headed toward a nest. (The next day, as I was exploring the cliffs south of Kenton, I found the suspected

nest.) Strength and agility—the Golden Eagle is a marvelous example of both.

In Sutton's *Species Summaries of Oklahoma Birds* [1982], I found this interesting story, noted by Sutton, who quoted Green (1927, Wilson Bull, 39: 172). From 1905-1909 about 10 Golden Eagle specimens "were brought into the museum of the State Teachers College [in Alva, northwest Oklahoma] for mounting. From one of these was plucked the quill with which President Theodore Roosevelt signed the statehood bill for Oklahoma." Green concluded from these eagles collected between 1905-1909 that the Golden Eagle had been "... formerly common in northwestern Oklahoma..." Who knows, but perhaps a hundred years prior to this the Golden Eagle may have been a common permanent resident of central Oklahoma as well.

Minutes

Minutes of the December 17, 2012 meeting

Call to order by President Bill Diffin at 7:13pm.
Minutes approved and seconded.
Treasurer Nancy Vicars absent, but no reported unusual expenses during month. There is about \$6000 in the bank.

No new committee reports this month.

Old business: Due to time constraints, the election of new officers was postponed from last month until this meeting. The officers have agreed to serve in their current capacities, and Sharon Henthorn has agreed to serve as Secretary, upon resignation of Nancy Reed. Ballots were distributed, and the slate of officers was elected by majority vote.

John Shackford reported that the recent Christmas Bird Count was a success, and that a total of 115 species were counted in the local count zone.

New business: Dave Woodson reports that Crystal Lake has been transformed into an educational park for OKC Public Schools students. Field trips are being planned, and we have been asked to consider donating time, funds, and/or ideas for including birding as a part of the experience. Suggestions may be relayed to Dave.

Sue Woodson requests volunteers for refreshments to be supplied for upcoming meetings, and sign-up sheet was distributed.

Annual dues of \$15 may be turned in to Treasurer Nancy Vicars next month, but some members chose to pay at this meeting. That money is recorded by the secretary, and the monies to be transferred to Nancy.

Dave Woodson generously offered to sell a limited edition print by Don Eckelberry, *Wild Canary in Daisies*, 1973, with monies to be donated to the OKC Audubon Society. Terri Underhill purchased it during the meeting.

Three new members were introduced: Brett Bartek has moved from Florida and is a new zookeeper at the OKC Zoo; Emily Muns, a graduate student from California; and Laura Pollard of Edmond, who is retired from the OK Wildlife Department.

Next meeting will be the fourth Monday, the 28th January. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Henthorn, secretary.

TOP 25 : Secretarybird

(*Sagittarius serpentarius*)

FAMILY: Sagittariidae
RANGE: African grasslands from west to east south, sub-Sahara to the very south of the continent
HABITAT: savannas but with grasses that it can see over; cultivated land
STATUS: not uncommon

If you like the long-legged wading birds – storks, cranes, herons – and also have a fondness for the birds of prey this next bird-you-must-see gives you the best of these 2 avian groups – the Secretarybird of the grasslands of Africa.

This is another of those strange amalgams, a platypus of the bird world. The head is unmistakably raptor – but with a shaggy crest that looks like so many quill pens stuck behind the ear of some Victorian-era secretary (think Bob Cratchit). Then there's the neck and those ridiculously long legs that shout 'CRANE' or 'STORK'. I'm not sure what Nature was thinking with this bird but the result is intriguing – and beautiful.



Sauntering along the savannas of Africa this creature searches out anything it can kill for food. It is perhaps most known for grabbing snakes, sometimes even deadly ones, with its stubby feet and stomping them unto death. Here's where those long legs may come in handy – any bites from such lethal prey items are deflected by tough, bare keratin armor. However legendary the handling of vipers, cobras, and mambas is by the Secretarybird it is just as likely to grab insects, lizards, small mammals – even baby birds and turtles! As terrestrial as this raptor is it still nests in trees – probably to keep its young away from those same snakes and other Secretarybirds.

So different is this bird from all other raptors that it makes up its own family. And it is just one more animal to add to that list of unique fauna that make Africa one of the most interesting places on the planet for wildlife.

Chirpings

by Patti Muzny

Another season of CBC's has come to an end and I'm reflecting on the birding experiences that I've added to my repertoire of birding adventures.



Brian and I began the first of our CBC's with our own OKC Audubon Society's CBC. We count in the NW Oklahoma City area of our circle. In around 30 years, we've seen many changes – most of them not so very welcome. Birds of prey no longer perch on the utility lines along Memorial Road – there is now a turnpike. Gone are the "wild" places with fields and weeds and trees. In 2012 we found most of our habitat gone and replaced by gated communities that don't allow weeds. Gone are the hawks and sparrows and flocks of goldfinches and juncos, along with Tree Sparrows, Harris's Sparrows and White-Crowned and White-throated Sparrows. In spite of the challenges, we managed to find a fair number of species and the weather was good and we were out counting birds.

We closed out 2012 by participating in the Cleveland County Christmas Bird Count (CCCBC) on Sunday, December 30. Of course it was cold and of course the sun stayed hidden and the south wind increased just in time for our trek on the north side of Lake Thunderbird.

Brian Muzny, Esther Key and I made up the CCCBC team again this year. We've counted in the same area for well over 20 years. The drought of the past two years has been very devastating to Lake Thunderbird. In one cove in the Zoom Beach area of Little River State Park, the water was down so far, we could easily hike closer to the end of the water. Our reward for that chilly jaunt was a flock of Least Sandpipers and a Snipe. We also found a lone Greater Yellowlegs there.

One of our surprises was a pair of Black Vultures in the Twin Bridges area just north of Alameda Street at the home of our friend, Jane Boren. Another unusual species for our group was Snow Goose, which Brian heard and Joe Grzybowski actually saw from his count area, opposite ours. Esther also spotted our first Wild Turkeys and we had a Roadrunner run across the road in front of our vehicle.

Harris's Sparrow failed to make our list, as did White-crowned Sparrow.

Our most numerous species was Dark-eyed Junco. Normally we find an Eastern Phoebe, but with all of the wetland areas dry, and maybe due to the cold as well, we found none. Twenty-nine American White Pelicans were found snoozing on the beach at the Marina along with Ring-billed Gulls and one lone Herring Gull. Another surprise (I guess this is a good thing.) was only finding one House Sparrow.

It was a great day of birding, although it never really got warm. And at the end of the day, an invitation to sample the incredible food that comes out of Jennifer Kidney's kitchen is enough to make up for the chill of the day.

Brian and I began the New Year with the last CBC of 2012 CBC season. On January 5, 2013, we spent an awesome 10 -hour day on Ketchum Ranch stalking birds with Leonard and June Ketchum. This was our first CBC for Stephens County and hopefully it won't be the last! The variety of habitat and remoteness of the ranch make birding here an extraordinary experience. But the best part is spending the day birding with June and Leonard.

Ma Nature chose to hit us with a wind that was not very pleasant for the earlier part of the day, but the sun soon made its appearance and the birding was great. Our first Red-headed Woodpeckers created some excitement, but before long, we were able to find them at several locations. June had Pine Siskins coming to her feeder and we found a few at one of our other stops. Ducks were fun to find at the numerous ponds and lakes in the area. Pintails, one of my favorite ducks, were numerous. One surprise was a Horned Grebe. Brian and I were hiking in some woods along a creek when I heard a sound that I couldn't pinpoint. After a bit of stalking around some brush, we flushed a feisty little Winter Wren.



Near the bunkhouse we found the Merlin that Leonard practically guaranteed would be in the area. While June drove and Leonard navigated, we spent the entire day mostly on the ranch and tallied 82 species of birds. The unofficial count total for the circle was 112.

We extend our sincere thanks to June and Leonard Ketchum for their hospitality and a memorable day of birding.

Recorders Report – December 2012

Christmas Bird Counts and Storms

Winter arrived with a Christmas storm, Christmas Bird Counts and lots of birds for birders to locate. While the drought continues and lake levels are at an all time low, many ducks were found on small subdivision ponds making identification easier. Several unusual species were located, but because they were also seen at least once earlier in the year, they are marked by italic.

On December 1st along South Jenkins Lindell Dillon saw a lone mature Bald Eagle, an Osprey, Cedar Waxwings and a Red-breasted Nuthatch. On the 2nd Matt Jung walked the east side of Lake Overholser and located a Brown Creeper, Spotted Towhee and near the lake were Snow and Crackling Geese. On the 4th Jane Boren and Marilyn Bradford spied two *Black Vultures* perched on the pole beside Alameda Street near the twin bridges area of Lake Thunderbird.

On the 6th Jason Shaw reported Le Conte's Sparrows at the USAO Habitat Area just west of the University of Arts and Science in Chickasha. Meanwhile at Lake Carl Blackwell Alex James was walking back to his car when a flock of *Red Crossbills* fell out of the sky into the pine trees in front of him. On the 7th a Louisiana Birder observed Forester's Tern and Lapland Longspurs along Prairie Dog Point on Lake Hefner. On the 8th Jeff T stopped by Lake Hefner and discovered Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Mergansers, Common Loons, Horned Grebes, and a Belted Kingfisher.

On the 9th Jim Bates noticed that a Sharp-shinned Hawk had stopped in his yard and then flew over the fence to a large evergreen bush looking for a nice sparrow breakfast. He also had an Eastern Screech Owl appearing irregularly in the evening; plus

at a small cattail marsh, a Common Yellowthroat and in a damp ditch a couple of Wilson's Snipe. On the 10th a friend of James Ingold spotted an *albino Red-tailed Hawk* on I-40 eastbound between mile

markers 215 and 216. On the 11th John Shackford estimated there were 100+ Smith's Longspurs at the Purina Plant field in Edmond, and on the 13th John Polo



found a *Rough-legged Hawk* in Logan County.

On the 15th John Polo photographed a **Glaucous Gull** on Boomer Lake in Stillwater and Torre Hovick witnessed a flock of Brewer's Blackbirds in Stillwater. Meanwhile in Oklahoma City the

Christmas Bird Count was being conducted. At New Church west of North Britton Road and NW Highway Patti and Brian Muzny caught sight of a single *Townsend's Solitaire* feeding in red cedar junipers and hackberry trees. A nearby creek had a Great Egret and pair of Wilson's Snipe. Terri Underhill and Brett Bartek flushed a **Short-eared Owl**. Other unusual species on the CBC included Ross's Goose, Red-throated Loon, Ferruginous Hawk, American Avocet, American Woodcock, Horned Lark and during the week the Lesser Black-backed Gull.

On the 18th Matt birded the SH-66 bridge and located a Hairy Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwings, Fox Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. On the 20th Jim Bates walked a field north of Crystal Lake to flush sparrows and noticed a single bird with white sides on the tail which turned out to be a *Vesper Sparrow*. On the 21st Dala Grissom went out by the Shawnee Lakes and saw about 40 American White Pelicans, at least 100 Double-crested Cormorants and gulls. On the 22nd Jim flushed a Hermit Thrush at the Lake Overholser dam above 10th Street.

A snow storm arrived on the 24th giving central Oklahoma a rare white Christmas; however, not enough moisture was received to affect the drought. On the 25th Hollis Price had Pine Siskins and Fox Sparrows at her feeder in Jones. On the 29th Matty and Benjamin Hack discovered a *Prairie Falcon* on Highway 177 in Payne County.

On the 30th the Cleveland County Christmas Bird Count was conducted in Norman and surrounding area. Interesting birds seen included Turkey and Black Vultures, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Wild Turkey, Greater Roadrunner, Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, and Vesper Sparrow. This made a great ending for a great birding year.

During December **140** bird species were reported with **2** new species which brought the 2012 year's total to **278** species in the Central Oklahoma area. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds and can be contacted by e-mail at emkok@earthlink.net. Esther M. Key, Editor.



CBC Recap

On the 2012 Christmas Bird Count we recorded 119 species, plus one additional species in the count period. This is a lot more than the 100 species we used to struggle to get on our count. We did face some negative conditions—continuing drought (a toll on small land birds), mild early winter (some of the exotic gull species apparently were not in yet), and loss of many fields over the years to housing developments (hard on long-spurs and sparrows).

Some of the remarkable finds—American Woodcock, by Jimmy Woodard and Nadine Varner; Townsend's Solitaire, by Patti and Brian Muzny; Red-throated Loon, by Nathan Kuhnert, Zach Poland and Pat Velte; Lesser Black-backed Gull in count period, by Jim Bates; and Short-eared Owl, by Terri Underhill and Brett Bartek.

Thanks to all for a job well done. A special thanks to Diane Newell and Sally Coates for hosting the Tally Party at the Newell home. And a special thanks to Pat Velte for data entry—she says that every party list she enters is a pleasurable field trip for her!

CBC data has many uses, very important among them identifying birds with decreasing populations. On the ducks, for instance, CBC data can be used to help set hunter bag limits—protecting the rarer ones with smaller bag limits. To my surprise we had more individual birding parties, 22, and more people, 54, participate than ever before. It was a really nice day in several ways, including weather!

To the right is a list of the species seen.

-- John Shackford, Compiler

Gr. WF Goose	American Avocet	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Snow Goose	Greater Yellowlegs	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Ross' Goose	Least Sandpiper	Eastern Bluebird
Cackling Goose	Wilson's Snipe	Townsend's Solitaire
Canada Goose	American Woodcock	American Robin
Wood Duck	Bonaparte's Gull	Hermit Thrush
Gadwall	Ring-billed Gull	Northern Mockingbird
American Wigeon	Herring Gull	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Lesser BB Gull (cw)	European Starling
Northern Shoveler	Forster's Tern	American Pipit
Green-winged Teal	Rock Pigeon	Cedar Waxwing
Canvasback	Eurasian Coll.-Dove	OC Warbler
Redhead	White-winged Dove	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Mourning Dove	Spotted Towhee
Greater Scaup	Barn Owl	Eastern Towhee
Lesser Scaup	Eastern Screech-Owl	American Tree Sparrow
Bufflehead	Great Horned Owl	Field Sparrow
Common Goldeneye	Barred Owl	Savannah Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Short-eared Owl	LeConte's Sparrow
Common Merganser	Belted Kingfisher	Fox Sparrow
RB Merganser	RB Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	YB Sapsucker	Lincoln's Sparrow
Red-throated Loon	Downy Woodpecker	Swamp Sparrow
Common Loon	Hairy Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Northern Flicker	Harris's Sparrow
Horned Grebe	Yellow-shafted Flicker	White-crowned Sparrow
American White Pelican	Red-shafted Flicker	Dark-eyed Junco
DC Cormorant	Pileated Woodpecker	Lapland Longspur
BC Night-Heron	Easter Phoebe	Smith's Longspur
Great Blue Heron	Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
Great Egret	American Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Northern Harrier	Horned Lark	Eastern Meadowlark
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	Western Meadowlark
Cooper's Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Great-tailed Grackle
Red-tailed Hawk	WB Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ferruginous Hawk	Brown Creeper	House Finch
American Kestrel	Carolina Wren	Pine Siskin
American Coot	Bewick's Wren	American Goldfinch
Killdeer	Winter Wren	House Sparrow

Oklahoma City Audubon Society
c/o Patricia Velte
1421 NW 102nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73114

Field Trip Schedule

Feb.16: Grey Snow Eagle House: We will visit the Iowa tribe's eagle rehabilitation facility near Perkins. Tour of the facility will begin at 10am. Lunch and birding opportunities after. Contact *Leader:* Warren Harden (WHarden@odmhsas.org) for further details.

March 5: Woodcock Courtship at Draper: meet at Lupe's Restuarant at 5PM *Leader:* Jimmy Woodard (405 365 5685)

Mid-March (13-23): Tufted Jay Preserve, Mazatlan, MEXICO: see some of Mexico's beautiful endemic birdlife, including the gorgeous Tufted Jay, at the eponymous reserve outside Mazatlan. This is a chance for some exotic lifers plus possible beach R&R in historic Mazatlan. *Coordinator/Leader:* Mark Delgrosso (405 470 4533/ medel-grosso@gmail.com)

Great Backyard Bird Count

This is a reminder to encourage all birders to participate in a FUN Conservation Activity next month. The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place 15-18 Feb 2013. Beginning this year, the GBBC will be integrated with eBird-- a worldwide bird data collection program used for keeping track of your personal bird records and bird lists. Scientists use the GBBC information, along with other observations to help understand what is happening to bird populations. You can help -- all it takes is 15 minutes. More information can be found on the GBBC website. (Photographers a photo contest awards prizes to the best photograph taken during the GBBC.) All you need to do is:

Create a GBBC account. see <http://www.birdsource.org>

Count birds for at least 15 minutes in one or more location on one or more days -- 15-18 Feb 2013. Submit a different checklist for each day. You can submit more than one checklist per day for each new location.

Enter your results on the GBBC website (or eBird). If you already use eBird, please continue using eBird to submit your sightings but be sure to enter at least one checklist during the GBBC weekend!
